REMARKS

The outstanding non-final Office Action mailed November 20, 2003 (Paper No. 19) has been carefully considered. In response thereto, please enter the following amendments in which claims 27 and 31 are amended; and claims 33-54 are added. Claims 27-54 are now pending in the present application. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims, as amended, are respectfully requested.

For the record, in Applicants' Preliminary Amendment, which was filed August 26, 2003, Applicants may have incorrectly referred to claims 1 – 18. Referring to the Preliminary Amendment, in the section titled "AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS," Applicants indicated that claims 1 – 26 were cancelled, but in the section titled "REMARKS," Applicants indicated that claims 19 – 26 were cancelled. By way of this Response, Applicants clarify that claims 1 – 18 are also cancelled. Thus, claims 1 – 26 remain cancelled.

Claimed Priority

The present application claims priority back to Johnson (U.S. Patent No. 4,987,486), filed December 23, 1988. The Office Action (paper no. 19) states:

> "the instant application is not supported by disclosure of the '486 patent. *Johnson* discloses a screen alignment program and not a system for transmitting screen data from a system manager. In fact, *Johnson* teaches away from receiving screen data from a system manager (see col. 5, lines 11-15) for 'complete screens of characters for transmission to a terminal according to the present invention for display is <u>not</u> required because the terminal comprises its own character generator 204'."

Applicants traverse the finding and assert that *Johnson* discloses the "[s]ystem manager 12 also controls the generation of video channels at modulator 11...[I]n particular, ***modulator 11*** comprises the capability ***to generate signals*** for actuating the display of character screens at terminal locations responsive to the control of the system manager in the event, for example, that terminals are unable to generate the character screens themselves." (Col. 5, lines 3-11.) Furthermore, "[i]n a "hybrid" system comprising ***terminals having no character generator*** and terminals according to the

present invention, *locally generated video modulator 11 would be necessary*. The *screens generated either at the terminals or by way of modulator 11*, for example, may relate to the provision of information to guests or patients about hotel or hospital services, respectively." (Col. 5, lines 21-27.) Thus, *Johnson* did disclose a system for transmitting screen data, which can then be used by a screen generator at the terminal to generate a screen, and *Johnson* disclosed that a local screen generator, which is not at the terminal, could also be used.

Furthermore, the present application is the grandchild of U.S. Application Serial No. 07/342,987, which was filed on April 20, 1989. Specifically, the present application is a divisional of U.S. Patent No. 5,754,940, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent No. 5, 355,480, filed October 13, 1992, which is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 07/342,987, which was filed on April 20, 1989 and which is abandoned. Thus, Applicants are entitled to at least an effective filing date of April 20, 1989, the filing date of the grandparent application 07/342,987.

Response to 35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection

Claims 27-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Welsh (U.S. Patent No. 4,829,5589). *Welsh* was filed on January 19, 1988 and published on May 9, 1989. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that *Welsh* cannot be used as a 102(b) reference because Applicants have an effective filing date preceding the 102(b) date of *Welsh*.

Furthermore, with regard to claim 27, Applicants have claimed "generating a screen of first operation data ... wherein the screen of operation data is generated by a *local screen character generator*." *Welsh* discloses that screens are stored in RAM 51, which are capable of storing approximately 600 screens (col. 9, lines 46-60), and that when a user wants to display a screen, the user need not wait for a screen to be received because "the screens are already in RAM 51." (Col. 10, lines 3-5.) Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that *Welsh* apparently fails to disclose generating a screen of first operation data responsive to a command, wherein the screen of operation data is

generated by a local screen character generator. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

With regard to claim 31, the Office Action rejects claim 31 using the rejections of claims 27 and 28. Claim 31 includes the limitation of "a local character screen generator for generating a screen of information responsive to receiving a command." Applicants respectfully submit that *Welsh* apparently fails to disclose "a local character screen generator." Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

New Claims

Claims 33-54 have been newly added to further define and/or clarify the scope of the invention claimed therein.

Newly added independent claim 33 includes the limitation of "generating at the premises of a subscriber a screen of a menu for selecting services, wherein the screen is one of a plurality of screens included in the menu," which Applicants believe is not disclosed in the cited art.

Newly added independent claim 47 includes the limitation of "means for generating screens of a menu for selecting services, ... wherein the screen generating means is located at the premises of the subscriber," which Applicants believe is not disclosed in the cited art.

Newly added independent claim 53 includes the limitation of "generating at the premises of a subscriber a screen for display on a television, wherein the screen relates to information about services provided by the subscriber of the interactive entertainment system," ," which Applicants believe is not disclosed in the cited art.

Newly added independent claim 54 includes the limitation of "means for generating screens of information related to services provided by the subscriber of the interactive entertainment system," which Applicants believe is not disclosed in the cited art.
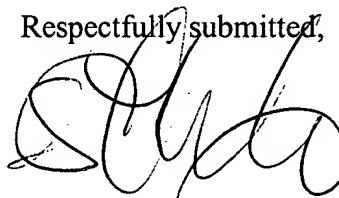
Prior References Made of Record

The prior references made of record have been considered, but are not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims. Other statements not explicitly addressed herein are not admitted.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 27-32 and newly added claims 33-52 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey R. Kuester, Reg. No. 34,367

THOMAS, KAYDEN,
 HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, L.L.P.
Suite 1750
100 Galleria Parkway N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30339
(770) 933-9500